

## "Space Week" Officially "Launched" on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>!



**Katelyn LaPearl** (left) and **Sydney Hurteau** (right) investigating angular momentum characteristics of a gyroscope, which are used to stabilize satellites.



We're looking forward to "**Space Week**" this coming week, an interdisciplinary unit to be held in grades 6, 7, and 8 on the theme of outer space! We truly appreciate the efforts of **Mrs. Kelly Graveson – Grade 8 Science Teacher and Science Vertical Team Chair**, **Mrs. Rachel Usher – Grade 7 Science Teacher**, and **Mrs. Karen Cristian – Grade 6 Science Teacher** – assisted by the **Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Teams** - for creating, planning, and supervising this special week, as well as the strong support from our corporate and educational partners, including the **Blackstone Valley Education Foundation** who provided grant funding to write the curriculum; **NASA**; **WPI**; **Raytheon**; the **Gelfand Endeavor in Massachusetts Schools (GEMS)**; and the **Regional Science Resource Center of UMass Medical School**! Highlights of this coming week will include special guest presentations on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, about the dangers of space debris by **Dr. David Wright**, of the Union of Concerned Scientists; and a presentation on NASA by **Mr. Sam Ortega**, **NASA's Centennial Challenge Program Manager**, on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, as well as a wide variety of classroom lessons and activities conducted by our **Science teachers** and the **Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Teams**, assisted by **Mr. MacDonald Andrews**, **Senior Raytheon Engineer and Douglas resident**!

Space Week was officially "launched" last Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, with a special presentation conducted by **Mr. MacDonald Andrews** for **Mrs. Rachel Usher's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science classes**! **Mr. Andrews** spoke to the students about Satellite Communications. He began his presentation by explaining to students what engineers do, and shared with them a project he is working on at Raytheon involving satellite ground terminals, which send or receive data from orbiting satellites.



(Above Left) **Jeremy Brule** and **Nathaniel Speight** examine the inside of a radio. (Above Right) **Brandon Senechal** tunes in to an AM station.

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As students entered the room, a musical selection from *The Who* was playing on the radio. This sparked a discussion about satellite communication, which Mr. Andrews referred to as "radio stars." From Sputnik to the International Space Station - which is the size of a football field orbiting the Earth - the students gained an understanding of the history, uses and physics behind satellites. They even related the principles of physics to some of their favorite rides at Canobie Lake Park, such as the Turkish Twist. Students were highly engaged and asked excellent questions as they investigated the demo equipment Mr. Andrews brought to share with the students.

Some students were so excited that they chose to miss recess so they could continue to play with the demos! They are all one step closer to becoming engineers. This was truly an amazing way to start our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Space Week! *Thank you, Mrs. Usher and Mr. Andrews!*



(Left) **Brent Masters, Emily Lane and Allicyn Cole** observe a magnetic levitron. (Below) **Alyssa Bourque's** hands in between the magnet and the base of the levitron.



(Below) **Joseph Lincoln, Brian Flanagan, Grant Gualtieri and Olivia Ouellette** observing Newton's Cradle.



(Below) **Sarah Grenier** investigates circuits.





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Several of our **Sixth Grade** students have been staying after school to work with **Mrs. Karen Cristian** and **Mr. MacDonald Andrews** to build Estes rockets that they will launch during "Space Week" on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>! On Fri., May 18<sup>th</sup>, a "test launch" took place to prepare for the main event! Thank you, Mrs. Cristian and Mr. Andrews, for making this exciting opportunity possible for our students!

Scenes from the "test launch" on May 18<sup>th</sup>!

